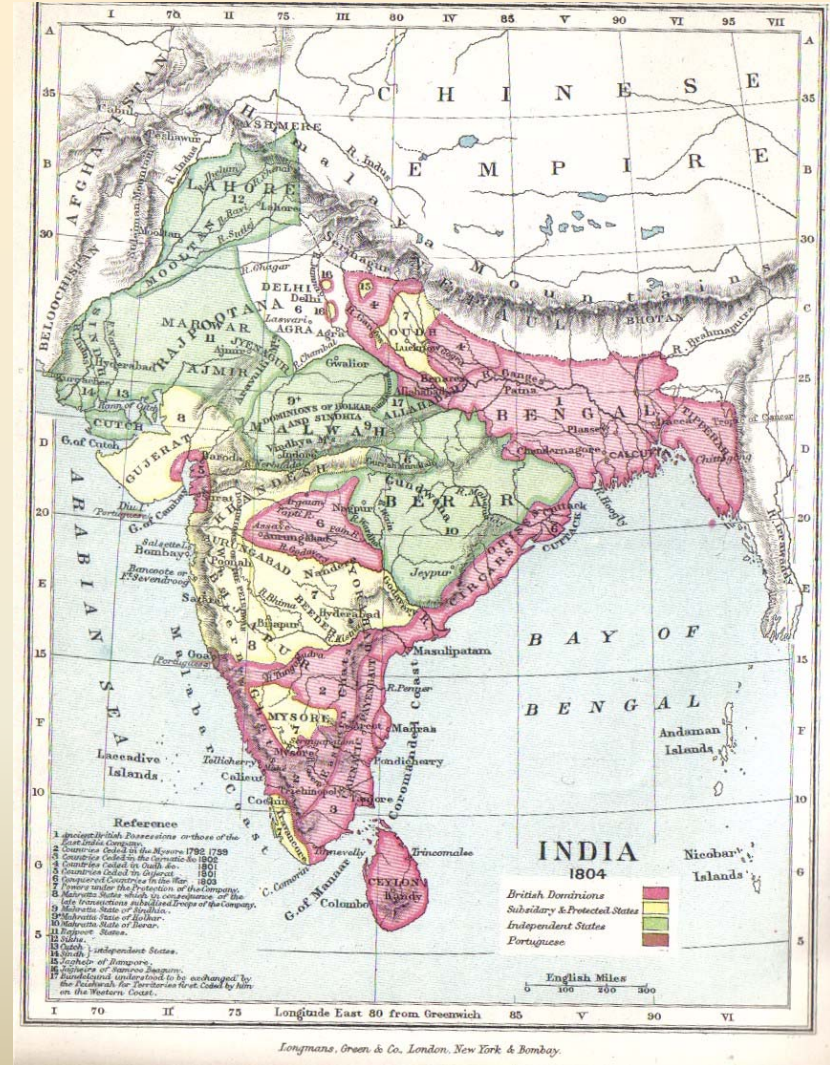


Colonizing the Mind: the case of India 1820-1857



Themes

- Introduction: what is meant by colonizing the mind?
- Colonizing the mind and Humanitarianism
- The missionary offensive
- Constructing a History of India
- Indian Customs, British Culture and the Law

Introduction: what is meant by “colonizing the mind?”

- Getting control of what people think
- Organizing knowledge
- The superiority of our way of thinking
- Wilberforce 1813: “*Our religion is sublime, pure, beneficent. Theirs is mean, licentious and cruel.*”

Colonizing the mind and humanitarianism

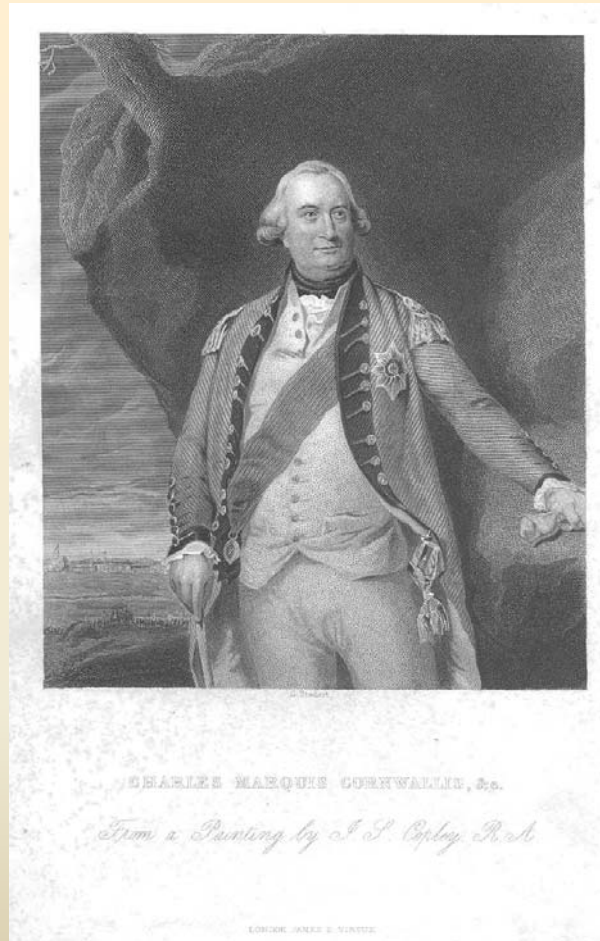
Orientalists and Anglicists

Humanitarians' civilising mission

Governor Generals of India committed to this
from c. 1790s

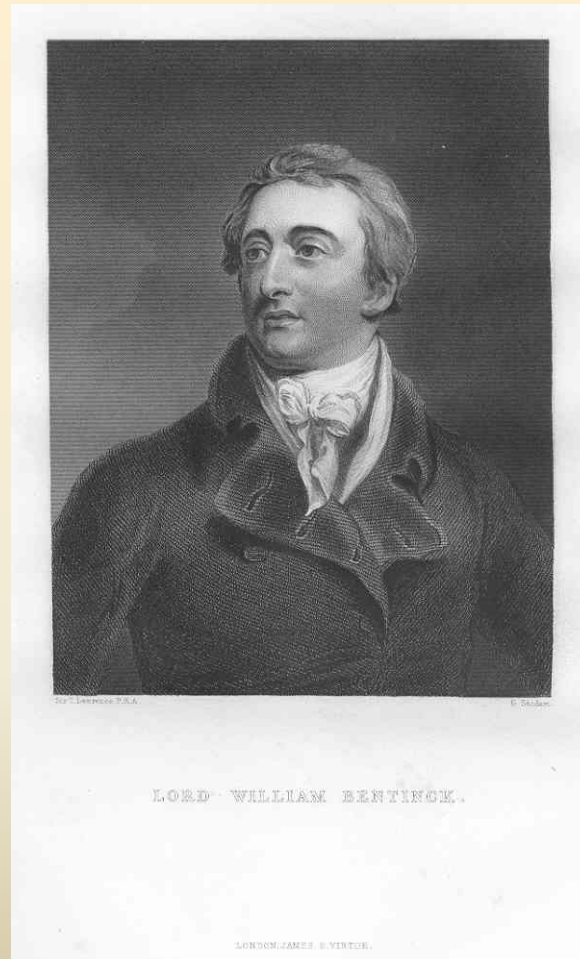
Humanitarian Governor Generals

Lord Cornwallis
1789-97



Humanitarian Governor Generals

Lord William Bentinck
1828-35



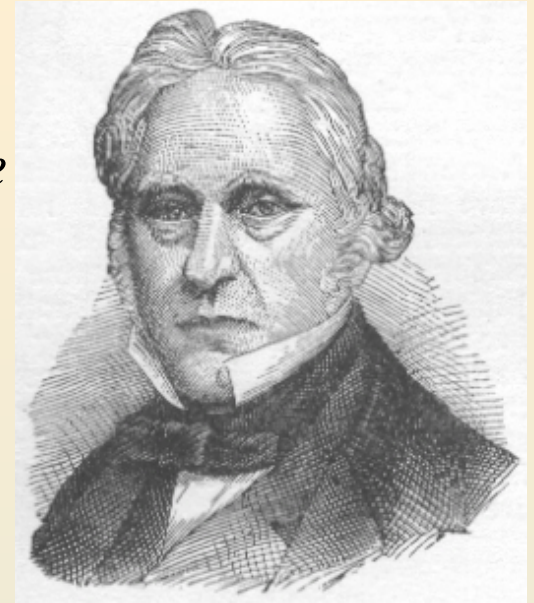
Humanitarian

Lord Dalhousie
1846-1857



Humanitarian . . .

“I see bloody and degrading superstitions gradually losing their power. I see morality and the taste of Europe beginning to produce a salutary effect on the hearts and understandings of our subjects”—Thomas Macaulay 1833

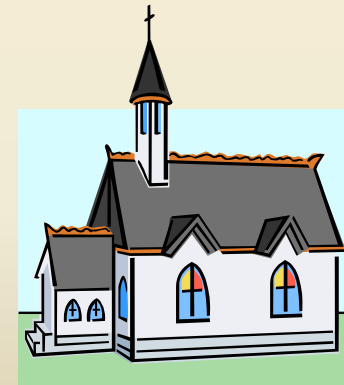


Missionary Offensive

Missionaries arrive, 1813

Limited converts

But deep opposition



Constructing a History of India

- Began after Plassey 1757
- James Mill, History of India 1818



Indian Customs, British Culture and Law

- Macaulay Minute 1833



Indian Customs, etc.

Suttee



Indian Customs, etc

Thugee



Indian Customs etc.

- British law replaces Muslim and Hindu law from c. 1820
- Completed by 1864



Conclusion: the paradoxes of colonizing the mind

- Stimulated resistance
- Stimulated expansion of traditional customs
- Basis for Indian collaboration
- Cultural justification for British rule, that derived from Humanitarianism